

May 14, 2019
RCMP Response

I can confirm that police in BC use the Alco-Sensor FST to conduct roadside breath testing. It takes very little effort for a person to provide a steady breath and sufficient volume of breath for the FST instrument to register a reading. Officers demonstrate to drivers what is required before obtaining a breath sample at roadside.

Any driver can choose to get their own blood test (but police do not facilitate this), however drivers cannot lawfully refuse a Breath Demand (mandatory breath testing).

SFST may be utilized however if one fails the SFST tests it simply means that one is impaired by something - alcohol, drugs or both - not to what degree one may be impaired. SFST tests are done at roadside and consist of 3 tests: Walk and Turn, One Leg Stand, and Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus. SFST is not used in place of mandatory breath testing - it may be used in conjunction with breath testing.

Most Traffic Services officers and many Frontline RCMP police officers are trained in the use of the Alco-Sensor FST and SFST. The SFST course is 5 days long and very comprehensive.

I refer you to the initial link I provided this morning:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ts-sr/aldr-id-cfa-aldr-eng.htm> and add the following which provides some publically available information regarding some of the training available to officers:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ts-sr/det-eng.htm>

Police across Canada have been conducting impaired driving investigations (both alcohol and drug) since legislation came into force in the Criminal Code in the 1920's (yes, it's that old). Many of our officers are highly trained and very knowledgeable about impaired driving and are skilled impaired driving investigators. The goal of the legislation is to remove impaired drivers from our roadways to prevent serious injury and fatal crashes that have, in the past, been responsible for injuring and killing far too many innocent people.

Thank you for your email. I trust this concludes your inquiries regarding this issue.

Kind Regards,

Cpl. Mike Halskov
BC RCMP Traffic Services